Importance of School Time Prayer in Educational Management
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Abstract: From very ancient days prayer is considered as the medium of harmonious relationship maintained by people with Almighty. While crisis comes and everywhere misery occupies the places, people do the performance of act of conveying to recover from such cases through the vocal or mental communication with their favourable and beloved deities. These communications are done either through the act of worship with special occasions or by the action during every day work. Ancient Greek and Indian civilizations carry the history of such activities performed daily at morning and evening well known as prayers for Divine communication. Prayer is very much spiritual in nature and it strengthens the inner power of every human individual. History remarks that ancient Roman preachers suggest prayer as strong medium for meditation at Biblical schools for the disciples. In Vedic culture prayer is seen as a mandatory daily task for disciples at least twice a day. Scholars strictly follow the instructions of their holy teachers and bring them in the row of reverence, glory of the beloved Supreme Father and his majesty of Education and first mother of human civilization, Goddess Saraswati. In Vedic system Goddess of Education and Educational system both are considered as superior necessities of human civilization and that is why sages again and again have called on Goddess Mother not to leave the land at any cost and to flow as stream of water of knowledge as beloved mother does for her children. Goddess is considered as the river of spiritual knowledge and sages have realized the necessity of such knowledge for sustaining the earth. Prayer not only becomes the medium of communication but also becomes the source of value regeneration. Human souls while travel with bodies for their worldly duties generally forget about their true identities. Due to such forgetfulness they suffer a lot on the way and start saying, “O God, please save us, O deities please relieve our pain and tiredness, supply us with many worldly matters for our comfortable living etc.” The act of conveying gradually takes the form of prayer and becomes systematic later on. Sages bring the prayer for the mode of discipline due to devotional feeling because many times souls convey their own feelings on the basis of truth before Divine. So they have implemented prayers with worship and prayers in ancient educational systems for the purpose of better

I. Introduction

“Answer me when I call to you, O righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.” (Psalm 4:1, Holy Bible, New International Version) Here the psalmist gives warning about not committing sins and advices to hold holy reverence, glory of the beloved Supreme Father and his majesty of righteousness. The feelings of mind and dwelling of heart can be examined well through self reflection during prayers to achieve goodness in thoughts and actions simultaneously to achieve life goal. It is important to take care and examine conscience during performance of duties in the beginning, during action and during rest at night. Holy Bible specifies about importance of prayer in many verses. Almost all religions in the world follow prayers in their respective traditions in many ways. From the age old traditions in this world prayer is considered as a marvellous medium of conveying something personal troubles or about requirements before their beloved demigods or deities. Prayer is performed either personally or in group. Prayer is marched by silence or by devotional songs. There are many procedures and many forms of prayers. In Indian civilizations from ancient days sages have taught disciples to be in prayers before teachings which have given birth to the traditions of school time prayers. In ancient days disciples have given mark of praying their Gurus and to beloved God by the direction of them. It is well marked in the holy Rig Veda that sages have prayed many times to Goddess of Education and first mother of human civilization, Goddess Saraswati. In Vedic system Goddess of Education and Educational system both are considered as superior necessities of human civilization and that is why sages again and again have called on Goddess Mother not to leave the land at any cost and to flow as stream of water of knowledge as beloved mother does for her children. Goddess is considered as the river of spiritual knowledge and sages have realized the necessity of such knowledge for sustaining the earth. Prayer not only becomes the medium of communication but also becomes the source of value regeneration. Human souls while travel with bodies for their worldly duties generally forget about their true identities. Due to such forgetfulness they suffer a lot on the way and start saying, “O God, please save us, O deities please relieve our pain and tiredness, supply us with many worldly matters for our comfortable living etc.” The act of conveying gradually takes the form of prayer and becomes systematic later on. Sages bring the prayer for the mode of discipline due to devotional feeling because many times souls convey their own feelings on the basis of truth before Divine. So they have implemented prayers with worship and prayers in ancient educational systems for the purpose of better
performance as well as for better management. Even in modern days while children come to school eagerly attend the prayer class before attending the general classes.

England based Christian theologian John Wesley (1703-1791) stresses religious experiences in Methodist movements and he says that these are the thoughts of individual moral exertion and fundamental religious commitment to live life as following them as important ways in life. He says that prayer is a religious experience or feeling or expression that essentially comes out from an individual towards God. German theologian Friedrich Schleiermacher (1768-1834) argues that religion is based on the feeling of infinite. So he says that prayer is nothing but an infinite interest oriented communication or approach of communication towards God and deities. Edward M. Bounds (1835-1913) gives emphasis on the educational purpose of the prayer. He says that every human being should do prayer to be pressed and pursued with energy that never tries a persistency can never be denied and courage that never fails. According to him prayer is defined as process of compunction with higher energy to increase both mental and physical strength of an individual to acquire courage and to pursue energy to remain energetic the whole period of work. Psychologist and philosopher of Harvard University, William James (1842-1910) states prayer as a communication with God and is a process of law where really work is done and flow of spiritual energy happens and it produces psychological or material effect with the phenomenal world. St. Therese of Liseux (1873-1897) defines prayer as an aspiration of heart, which is directed to heaven and is a cry of gratitude and love in the midst of trial as well as joy. Finally she summarises that prayer is supernatural which expands the soul and unites with Divine power. Dr. Martin Ralph defines prayer as simply paying attention to God. Spiritual Science Research Foundation (SSRF) defines prayer as mass of respect, love, pleading and faith for God. School time prayer refers to the organized mass prayer done by school students before starting daily classes. Henry Fayol (1841-1925) defines management as to plan, to forecast, to organize, to command, to coordinate and control. However Donald J Clough says that management is both art and science of various decision making processes that leaders do adapt and it is essential key of leadership. Education means the gathering of customs of various learning experiences to the students and for the students up to the teachers to acquire knowledge, various skills, to have valuable attitudes, to produce smooth behaviour with fixation of ultimate aim to make them productive personals for the social benefit. In this regard educational management refers to the discipline of exactly the governing body of the knowledge which abides various concepts of laws or regulations, concepts of coordination and application practice. In another hand effective utilization of both material and human resources for effective and efficient function of teaching, socio-cultural responsibilities, activities of educational need, work of extension and cooperation and various research work all together refer to educational management. National policy on education (NPE), 1986, Government of India states that education is one of the unique investments for present and future. According to NPE education means for people for providing opportunity to reflect properly the critical, social, cultural, moral and spiritual issues facing towards humanity which help in the development of human resources with knowledge and skills with specialization. For education system education provides key role for producing teachers and thus generates employment. Margaret Preedy (1989) says that educational management keeps effectiveness for both functional and organizational supremacy in the field of education and educational affairs. Professor Keith Morrison (1998) says that both management and change in their own rights command huge attention in education and any matters related to educational aspects. Tony Bush (1995) considers educational management as a field of studying specifically the varieties of practices which are related to the operation and conduction of educational organizations. He says that the management which is related to or concentrated certainly with the purpose or vision or ambition of only education is called as educational management. According to R. Bolam (1999) educational management is defined as an executive function which carries out agreed policy. Odufowokan Adesina (2012) states that in absence of funds, materials and human resources educational management shall never be completed.

II. Objectives

To observe the relationship of minds of students with prayer and education for building their conducts at school for higher level it is necessary to understand the nature of prayer and characteristics of educational management. To understand and nourish the attitudes and behaviours of both students and teachers at workplace management is responsible for learning and perception. To emphasize and understand the resource management, management of people and financial management it is necessary to study about the educational environment properly. The school day environment depends on the starting of the day which starts with initiation of prayer. This vibrates the mental efficiency the whole day among students and teachers. It is essential to realize the importance of prayer for proper management of education system and to define prayer and educational management it is necessary to take these as objectives of the study here.

III. Literature Review

From the age old tradition it is mentioned in history that the human life is closely associated with religious feelings which has originated various rituals and worship methods and these are flowing with passage of time with changing human civilization. The form of education is associated with human life too and only the mode of education is changing time to time. Education is an essential field for the growth and development for human
resources. Prayer is originated from the religious nature of the human individuals. In written sources the attested act of prayer dates back to 5000 years. According to Sir James George Frazer earliest modern human beings practise something which originates from their hearts is recognized today as prayer. In ancient days spiritual traditions have given birth to wide varieties of devotional activities which are nothing but the different forms of prayers. In Greek, Roman, American and Indian civilizations many postures and gestures are followed during prayers. However prayer is a part of human life from the beginning of life even before birth. Thus prayer relates to its existence of eternity as human soul is eternal. Scriptures say about the secrets of prayer and almost all the scriptures of all religions highlight the concept of prayer. In book three of Shrimad Bhagavatam, chapter 31, verses 11-14 state that the fearful soul, due to the bondage of his past actions, while enters in to the mother’s womb and resides in a body gets pain and his fear increases a lot. The soul binding him with seven constituents of body those are nails, skin, fats, flesh, blood, bone and marrow, resides in mother’s womb in very difficulties. At that time with folded hands and through the words of his heart prays and appeals before God, the beloved Lord who places him inside the womb through the unbend law of karma. The soul prays and says, “O Supreme Father, “Kindly protect me because you protect the entire universe.” Due to this impact it becomes the habit of praying in all conditions knowingly or unknowingly. In chapter -9 of book-7 of Shrimad Bhagavatam verse-7 states that devotee Prahlada fixes his mind and prays before Lord Nrusinhadeva with undivided and full attention in the mode of complete trance. Dipping in love with a flattering voice Prahlada begins to offer prayer with his constant mind. Not only mother’s womb is described in scripture as the first workplace of human soul but also said that this is the first school of child. After birth while we try to teach sometimes the child moves away and goes for playing. But foetus inside mother’s womb does not able to go anywhere and carefully hears everything which is taught to him. For teaching the baby inside mother’s womb particularly the mother is taught because the baby inside completely depends on the mother’s activities. While mother awakes baby awakes and while mother listens baby too listens and while mother sleeps baby sleeps inside. It is described in great Indian epic the Mahabharata that Abhimanyu, the son of Great Warrior Arjuna hears the talking about Mahabharata war and about Chakrasya lue i.e the secrets of round critical war inside the mother’s womb only while Arjuna says his consort Subhadra. He hears the process of entering inside the war cycle but does not able to hear the process to come out after victory due to mother’s sleeping. The information cited in Chandogya Upanishad states that famous sage Uddalaka runs a school called Ashrama for the purpose of teaching Vedas. Uddalaka being pleased with the knowledge of disciple Kahola arranges the marriage of his daughter Sujata with him. Sujata while becomes pregnant desires to acquire spiritual knowledge wanting to teach her child inside her uterus. She believes that by doing so she can increase the spiritual knowledge and intelligence of her child extraordinarily. By thinking so she begins attending classes done by her father Uddalaka and her husband Kahola. One day Kahola recites the Vedas near the periphery of hearing area of the child in womb. The foetus inside keeps his mind to be more aware about the correct syllable of the chanting of the Vedic verses and hears him carefully. During pronunciation Kahola does a mistake and due to wrong pronunciation with distress embryo inside squirms. The child inside mother’s womb indicates the mistake of Kahola which is one of the incidences of eight occasions. Kahola perceives this through his power of understanding fine vibrations and feels uncomfortable and thinks that the child inside is arrogant. It is said that due to this matter of unpleasantness of his father it becomes curse and child takes birth later with eight bends and his name becomes Ashtavakra who turns in to a great sage. Later he defeats in competition in emperor Janaka’s court to Vandin one of the famous knowledgeable person of that time, the winner to his father Kahola. Ancient Indian women during pregnancy, to teach their babies with spiritual knowledge inside their respective wombs have followed the path of attending spiritual classes organized by holy sages. Educating the foetus inside mother’s womb is termed as Garbha-Sanskara in ancient India. Garbha means the womb or uterus and Sanskara means teaching good and righteous things especially spiritual knowledge to the embryo inside womb. Modern medical science also agrees that embryo inside womb perceives the external stimuli nearby his mother’s area. Baby inside loves to hear his mother’s sweet voice and also father’s voice and recognizes them. The Vedas clearly state that there is no teacher like mother and there is no best school like mother’s womb in this universe. The womb is the place where baby starts praying to God with the posture of folded hands and counts the each second of his time period in waiting to come out to visualise the material world.

There are different postures and gestures followed during prayer by the people of different religions in this world. Numerous examples we find in the Holy Bible regarding the mode of prayer and postures. 1 Kings 8:54 expresses the posture of prayer as people do on their knee, Exodus 4:31 indicates that prayer is done by bowing, 2 Chronicles 20:18 indicates that prayer is done on faces with expression before god, 1 Kings 8:22 indicates that prayer is done on standing and Matthew 26:39 indicates that prayer is done by facing towards ground. In eastern Churches different five types of postures are followed during prayer. In John 17:1a it is clearly mentioned that prayer is done looking towards heaven, and In 1 Timothy 2:8a it is clearly mentioned that prayer is done by uplifting holy hands. Standing with open eyes, looking up and hands uplifted is a type one posture, standing with looking down with averted or closed eyes and clasped the hands at the waist is type two posture, kneeling with open eyes looking up with hands uplifted with the palms up is type three posture, prostrate with lying on
with one’s belly looking down with eyes closed or averted is type four posture and with closed or averted eyes with folded hands in sitting is the type five posture generally followed by the eastern people in Churches and other religious organizations.

There are six famous world class and well managed schools noted in the Vedic period. Sage Gautama founds Nvay i.e. School of Logic, Kanda founds school of Vaisheshik i.e. Atomic School, Kapila establishes the school of Samkhya i.e. School of Cosmic Principle, Hiranyakarhaha and Patanjali establish school of Yoga, Jaimini establishes the school of Purvamimamsa i.e. Ritualistic School and Ved Vyas also known as Badarayana founds the school of Uttara Mimansa also called as Vedanta school i.e. School of Theology and Metaphysics. Sages at that ancient period introduce prayer and meditation as principal parts of educational management. The mark of school and higher education is marched ahead from ancient period in India. Takshashila also known as Taxila by modern scholars is such University establishes in early of 5th Century BC. This does exist up to 5th Century AD. The entry of students to this university highlights the age of sixteen for each category of its schools. Law, Philosophy, The Vedas, Eighteen Arts, archery, elephant lore etc. are taught with schools of Law, school of medical science, school of military science and many more with worship halls and prayer centres. Here only father of ancient Arthashastra (Finance and Economy) Chanakya also known as Kautiliya writes his famous text. History says that famous emperor of Maurya dynasty Chandragupt Maurya and healer of Ayurveda cum author of Charakasamhita, sage Charaka have studied here. The influence of Buddhism establishes learning centres in ancient India with establishment of Nalanda University in 5th century AD in modern state of Bihar. This is founded in 427 and is survived up to 1197. Students in this University are taught with Buddhist studies, fine arts, mathematics, astronomy, war science, medical science, politics, social science and management. This Nalanda University has left the mark of having eight compounds, nine story libraries, class rooms, dormitories for students and housing for 10,000 students, accommodations for 2000 professors, parks and gardens, lakes, ten temples and meditation halls for worship, prayer and meditation of teachers and students. History specifies that it has attracted the attention of varieties of students from abroad and many more students and scholars from China, Tibet, Indonesia, Korea, Persia, Turkey and Sri Lanka. Famous pilgrim from China to India, Hsuan Tsang states in his notes that he studies and teaches here for five years in the 7th Century AD. At that time it holds 10,000 students, 3000 teachers for them and more than 9 million manuscripts in libraries for reference purpose. In ancient India other Universities also have done spread the education like Odantapuri (550-1040 CE Ad) in Bihar, Somapura in Banga, in Andhra Pradesh Nagarjunakonda and in Telangana Kakatiya, Vikramasila (800-1040 CE AD) in Bihar, Valabhi in Gujarat, Varanasi (8th Century AD to at present), Kanchi in Tamil Nadu, Manyakheta in Karnatakta, Ratnagiri and Puspagiri in Odisha, and Sunethardevi Pirivena (1415 AD) in Sri Lanka. Managing the reputation and quality education in their management system bring them forward in history where prayer is accepted as essential part of life.

IV. Importance of the study

In modern days the atmosphere is polluted and environment remains full with negative tendencies which increase the stress. Educational environment needs pure vibration of gathered mass and by keeping this in mind ancient sages have suggested to clean the area of school and then to conduct the prayer class before starting of class in day. Prayer brings the feeling of self at the moment and increases the concentration by purifying the body and mind. Every day practice of prayer decorates the person’s feeling about education and attendance of students and association of teachers form the bond of education circle. Due to this prayer not only becomes the medium of communication with God but also becomes the strength provider internally. Prayer teaches the mode of conduct and helps in self management due to pure impact. B.K Usha specifies that whenever we need to communicate with God there is no need to urge anything. While we stand in front of sunlight do we say, “O Sun, please give us rays, prepare vitamin D on skin and fall on every part body? No. Actually sunrays fall on us and light enters every part of our body and automatically vitamin-D is prepared while we stand in day light. While we stand near ocean do we urge and say, “O ocean we need cold air. Please give us coldness and light enter every part of our body? No, we do never urge. While we stand on the bank of ocean, the cold and calm wind comes from ocean touches every corner of our skin on body and pleases the mind automatically. Likewise while we remain in memory of God, his mercy enters as vibration within us. Prayer tells us to be in memory of God. Let us outline the impact of school time prayer as a power.

A. Impact of school time prayer on students and teachers

It is clear that many authors support the prayer system and argue that it is very much essential in school for development of children to build a balanced and value based life. Prayer brings the religious feeling and thus changes their surrounding environment due to mass prayer vibration. The healthy environment and association of teachers encourage the students a lot before attending classes. Prayer pours deep impact on them in their workplace the whole day.

A.1. Vibration of Unity and integrity: - Generally in school students of various classes, race, and colour, categories with different economic groups and of different religions present. All attend prayer and class together. Due to mass prayer the pure vibration comes from each student and makes the environment pure. This generates pure thoughts of unity and integrity. For the timing they forget about differences among them and
unite with equal mindsets that last the whole day and work together with each other and with teachers with cooperation.

A.2. Acquiring conviction: - Acquiring conviction means acquiring internal knowledge within the self. Prayer awakes the devotion towards God at the moment an individual starts praying. While all students of a school and teachers pray altogether such feelings acquire their hearts and bring them spiritual awakening which awakes the positive values hidden within them and internally they become pleasing which lasts the whole day and helps in teaching for teachers and studying for students.

A.3. Awareness of self: - In individual level a person realizes the self as conscious spirit and his conscience is awaked by the initiation of school time prayer. Awareness of self plays major role in value expression in life and acquiring of positive thinking for the development of internal beauty. Awareness of self marched by prayer attracts others for feeling each other.

A.4. Responsiveness towards mind and world: - Prayer intensifies the responses of external and internal stimuli with balanced manner. So the self responds towards mind’s purest and deepest essence and leaves out negativity. The response towards world becomes positive so learning in school adds positivity about material education as well as spiritual education.

A.5. Sensitivity and concern towards education: - The matter of being attentive, conscious and maintain concentration in both class and prayer is a major issue for varieties of school students. This is called as the sensitivity. Prayer increases the sensitivity and concern of teachers and students towards education.

A.6. Improvement of Intellect and intuition: - Prayer from top to bottom of the body and mind circulates such vibration of purity that helps in shining of intellect and its development. So the power of reasoning and understanding for both teachers and students becomes smooth. Gradual practice of prayer increases the efficiency and capacity of intuition i.e. the ability to understand or know something without conscious reasoning.

A.7. Achievement of Sanctity and discipline: - Through gradual prayer habit teachers and students slowly gain holiness and interest towards supreme importance of God. Due to this love and affection develop for each other in institution or organization and they try to understand each view properly with proper care. Life of a student becomes disciplined.

B. Prayer based perspectives of educational management

There are several perspectives which we can draw from the prayer practice in the field of education. Educational institutions not only carry the assets and teachers and students but also carry other non-teaching staffs and involvement of parents and other associates with accessories. Managing educational affairs are trick-full in nature.

B.1. Development of managerial skills: - Due to gradual refining and awareness managerial skills develop among teachers to handle the students and among students to learn, perceive and help the teachers. Students’ leaders are generated for class monitoring and handle of school environment for cleanliness.

B.2. Planning of education and principles: - Lesson plan, distribution of periods, regulations for examinations and supervision of students are different tasks for staff members. For head teacher or subject teachers these depend on the mental strength and fineness of their moods. Due to prayer they get internal strength and easily handle these.

B.3. Problem solving, decision making and communication: - Many problems come as obstacles during management of educational institutions. Due to calmness gained during prayer it helps in overcoming those with courage. Educational employees take frequent decisions for students and institutions with proper communication from top to lower level including students’ affairs.

B.4. Students and staff motivation: - Prayer motivates both students and staff towards class room education for the study and teaching respectively along with other social duties. Motivation is one of the important tasks completed by mass prayer because the eagerness of students and teachers towards prayer remains as more.

B.5. Management of meetings, conflict resolution and stress reduction: - Various meetings in different occasions regarding school development, public relation, parents’ views and social welfare are conducted in school premises where principal or head teacher along with other staff members become more responsible. Prayer nurtures their mentalities well and they feel happy in organizing meetings and internal and external conflict resolution become easier. Prayer helps in stress reduction originated by school day pressure.

B.6. Development of school climate and building of conduct: - A major part of life time of a student is spent in school, college and University where his conduct is built and responses in life come accordingly. Mainly conduct is built in between primary and high school education. Daily prayer and moral teachings create a good school climate to build conduct properly for a student where he learns many more things.

B.7. Counselling and guidance: - Teachers get influential courage from prayer for proper counselling of students. Without proper counselling and guidance it is not possible to handle the students and resolute the students’ conflict. School education based on counselling and guidance becomes more productive to achieve the institutional goal.
B.8. Management of finance and budgeting with community service: - There are various maintenances of school buildings, assets, purchasing of necessary goods, black board maintenance, maintenance of school garden, sport instruments and playground depend on finance and proper budgeting. Prayer establishes the righteousness in minds of staff members and students and during activities positivity dwells in their hearts and they maintain righteousness everything. This teaches students to learn righteousness and community service. Serving society and taking care of elders and respecting them in surrounding environment is a part of work.

V. Discussion

Prayer is a part of human life. Prayer exists and is associated with human birth and death cycle since eternity. The soul while enters inside mother’s womb for getting a human body, resides there and due to pain and his fearfulness with folded hands does prayer to God to bring him out in to the material world. Prayer impacts a soul more even inside mother’s womb and outside after birth. School time prayer is very much essential for both teachers and students for their development. Prayer grants the time to flow with pleasing power and clarifies the climate of school creating favourable educational environment. Importance of school time prayer is truly understood from ancient civilization. That is why sages in ancient India and preachers in Roman civilization and Greek civilization suggest prayers to be part of school education to bring students and teachers in discipline and guide them with religious and righteous practices. Prayer awakes the self and due to this students and teachers become affectionate towards each other and towards God. This helps for proper management of educational system and educational affairs.

VI. Conclusion

This study shows the importance of prayer as remedy during value crisis to uplift humanity. Value acquisition for students is important as they build conduct in schools. We can say that this study will help educational authorities to manage the institutions with better planning, co-ordinating and controlling. This will help the students for development of managerial skills as well as leadership skills. Not only this study will help students and teachers of schools but also the other employees and managers for taking instant decisions, conflict resolution, management of self during crisis and management of resources in righteous manner. Practice of righteousness in action will be the main theme of their lives. After having this study, let us define educational management as the process of dealing and controlling human resources empathically and sympathetically in educational organizations to achieve the knowledge based goals within the periphery of righteousness. Let us define prayer as mode of communication with Divine through which righteousness dwells in action due to automatic perception of God’s mercy without urging anything.

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